

EXERCISE – EXERCISE - EXERCISE

Recovery of Small Asteroid 2012 TC4

The small asteroid 2012 TC4, which is predicted to safely pass by the Earth on Thursday, 12 October 2017, was observed by a ground-based telescope for the first time since original discovery in October 2012. 2012 TC4 was observed by the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope using one of their four 8.2-meter telescopes on 27 July and 5 August 2017 by Marco Micheli of the European Space Agency's NEO Coordination Center. The apparent magnitude, or brightness, of 2012 TC4 was 27, indicating it is still believed to be smaller than 30 meters in size. Although recovered in this targeted observation by a large telescope, such an object, if not already known, would have been too faint to be picked up by current near-Earth object surveys telescopes until it gets closer to Earth. Additional observations are planned by NASA-funded and other astronomers, including those in the International Asteroid Warning Network, as part of an exercise of the recovery, characterization, and reporting of such an object of interest, and of the notification process as outlined in NPD 8740.1.

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